

Perennial Pepperweed

Lepidium Latifolium L.

Mustard Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Small white flowers in dense clusters mainly at ends of stems
- ❑ Four flower petals, each 1/16 inch long
- ❑ Plant grows from 1 to over 3 feet tall
- ❑ Leaves are alternate, lance like, bright green to gray-green, sometimes toothed on margins
- ❑ Basal leaves have petioles (stalks) & are larger than upper leaves which are clasping
- ❑ Two small, rounded, flattened, slightly hairy reddish-brown seeds per fruit silicle (pod)



Biology and ecology

- A perennial spread by roots and seeds
- Prefers wet sites but can invade cropland- more often in pastures, ditches and roadsides
- Flowering occurs from early summer to fall
- Extensive root system and waxy layer on leaves and stems make it difficult to control
- A wide and fluctuating range of winter temperatures favors seed germination



Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of fill dirt, hay and seed from outside your area- due to difficulty controlling this weed prevention and early control are important

Biological - None known at this time

Cultural - Competitive vegetation aids in control

Mechanical - Repeated hand pulling and digging are good for limited infestations-clean tillage equipment to avoid spreading roots

Chemical - Some broad leaf herbicides are effective at label rates, but must be used with care around moist sites



Where found - There are about $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen known sites in Stevens County. Sites range from extremely dry gravel sites to very moist, grassy sites.